

estimated as scoring 2, wing / tail ratio as 2, plumage differences as 2+2, and ecological and behavioural differences as 0. The total score of 8 is above the threshold of 7 which usually indicates full species status. Given the range of differences discussed above, which are of a similar magnitude to those between various Australian *Corvus* species (Rowley 1970), we propose that *C. o. iusularis* is best treated as a full species. This proposal was already accepted by dos Anjos *et al.* (2009) and subsequently Clements *et al.* (2011) and the IOC (Gill & Donsker 2010).

Acknowledgements

Bruce Beehler, Stephen Debus, Mary LeCroy and Frank Steinheimer kindly commented on the manuscript.

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- Addresses:* Guy Dutson, Biodiversity Solutions, 15 Wills Close, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3SR, UK, e-mail: guydutson@gmail.com. Phil Gregory, Cassowary House, P.O. Box 387, Kuranda, Queensland 4881, Australia, e-mail: info@sicklebillsafaris.com. Walter Boles, Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia, e-mail: Walter.Boles@austmus.gov.au

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The authorship of the generic name *Argusianus*

by Steven M. S. Gregory

Received 21 February 2011

Temminck (1807: 149) employed the name *Argus* for his species *Argus giganteus*, a synonym of *Phasianus argus* Linnaeus, 1766. *Argus* Temminck, 1807, is, however, a junior homonym of *Argus* Bohadsch, 1761 [Gastropoda] and *Argus* Scopoli, 1777 [Lepidoptera]. A new name was therefore required. For many years, at least since Ogilvie-Grant's (1893) volume of the *Catalogue of birds in the British Museum* to Dickinson (2003: 61), this has usually

been cited as *Argusianus* Rafinesque, 1815, but as long ago as 1908 Richmond demonstrated that this was erroneous. The case is here reviewed.

History

Rafinesque, on p. 69 of his *Analyse de la nature*, used the name 'Argus' as a *nomen nudum*, placing it between *Phasianus* and *Tetrao*. In his famous unpublished card index, now housed at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC, Richmond wrote 'Possibly *Phas. Argus* -' (i.e. *Phasianus argus* Linnaeus, 1766), but this was pure conjecture. Later, on p. 219 (Additions et Corrections), Rafinesque employed the name *Argusianus* for the first time. It, too, is a *nomen nudum* as it is introduced merely as a new name for 'Argus R[afinesque]'. With no diagnosis, included species or indication to other authors, there is no proof that this was ever intended as a *nomen novum* for *Argus* Temminck, 1807.

Billberg, recognising that *Argus* Temminck, 1807, was unavailable, introduced *Bremus* Billberg, 1828. It transpired, however, that this name was *also* unavailable, being the junior homonym of *Bremus* Panzer, 1805 [Hymenoptera]. Richmond's card on this states 'as there is no other available name, we shall have to adopt *Argusianus* from Gray 1855, who appears to have been the first author to employ it in an *intellig* [sic] orthodox manner.' One is left to speculate whether the humour in this statement was intentional, but it represents one of Richmond's rare slips in that an earlier introduction by G. R. Gray existed, although in fairness it is not at all easy to recognise. Both Schulze *et al.* (1926: 270) and Neave (1939: 291) in their respective nomenclators credit the first valid use of *Argusianus* to Gray's *Genera of birds*, where in vol. 3, appendix p. 47, we find a footnote to the index entry for *Argusianus*, [p.] 496, which reads 'Rafinesque (1815). Synon[y]mous]. with *Argus*.' While this may seem insubstantial by modern standards, it must be taken in conjunction with the text to *Argus* Temm[inck]. on p. [496] (the pages were retroactively numbered by the index). There, Gray stated: 'The magnificent type of this genus is found in the dense forests of the Indian Archipelago, where it lives in pairs. *A. giganteus* Temm. — *Phasianus argus* Linn.' This is quite sufficient to link *Argusianus* with a type species by monotypy. It should be noted that the name *Argusianus* itself does not appear on p. [496] and that, therefore, 1849—the date of the appendix, part 49—and not 1845 for part 18 (Zimmer 1926: 269), is the correct date for the establishment of this genus.

Conclusion

The following then should be taken as the point of introduction of *Argusianus*, with the correct citation as follows:

Argusianus G. R. Gray, 1849. *The genera of birds* [vol. 3], pt. 49, appendix p. 47.

Type by monotypy, *A[rgus]. giganteus* Temm[inck]. = *Phasianus argus* Linnaeus, 1766.

Argusianus argus (Linnaeus, 1766).

Nomen novum for *Argus* Temminck, 1807, *nec Argus* Bohadsch, 1761 [Gastropoda], *nec Argus* Scopoli, 1777 [Lepidoptera].

Acknowledgements

My thanks go to Edward Dickinson for considerable help in unravelling the complexities of Gray's *Genera of birds* and Alan P. Peterson for the invaluable opportunity of being able to access 'The Richmond Index'. Also to Frank Steinheimer for improving the presentation during the course of refereeing this paper.

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Address: 35 Monarch Road, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN2 6EH, UK, e-mail: sgregory.avium@ntlworld.com

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The nest and eggs of Margaret's Batis *Batis margaritae*

by Michael S. L. Mills & Alexandre Vaz

Received 9 March 2011

Margaret's Batis *Batis margaritae* was first collected, by R. & L. Boulton, on 24 February 1931, at Mount Moco, Angola (Boulton 1934). Subsequently, the species was also found at one locality in the southern Democratic Republic of Congo (Schouteden 1971) and the species is fairly widespread in north-west Zambia where it can be common in *Cryptosepalum* forest (Dowsett *et al.* 2008). However, little is known of its behaviour, and the nest and eggs have never been described (Urban *et al.* 1997, Dowsett *et al.* 2008).

At around midday on 17 July 2010 we were in the largest forest patch on Mount Moco, known as Luanda (Mills *et al.* 2011), when we spotted a small, cup-shaped nest in the fork of a sapling within an area of relatively dense undergrowth at 2,390 m (12°42'55"S, 15°17'71"E). The nest contained two eggs. We retreated c.10 m and waited motionless in the undergrowth. After a couple of minutes a pair of Margaret's Batis (Fig. 1) approached the nest. They remained within 20 m for 5–10 minutes, after which one bird briefly perched on the nest, confirming its ownership. To minimise disturbance, we briefly photographed the nest and eggs after the birds had moved away, and then departed.

Twenty-one days later, on 7 August, we revisited the nest but found it empty. There were no obvious signs of predation or disturbance, making us uncertain as to whether or not the attempt had been successful. With a typical fledging period of 15–17 days for *Batis* spp. (Tarboton 2001), it is possible that the eggs hatched shortly after our observation and that the young had fledged shortly before our second visit. Because the nest was no longer in use, we collected it together with the branch on which it was placed, and have deposited it in The Natural History Museum, Tring, UK (NHM N/2011.2.1).